

## **SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**April 10, 2006**

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Marlowe, Rep. Neal, Mr. Robinson, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting, pointing out that today's agenda incorporated special recognition for schools "closing the achievement gap." Mr. Stowe announced that Mr. Tom DeLoach had been appointed to the EOC by Senator Courson. Mr. DeLoach serves as a representative of the business community.

#### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of February 13, 2006: The minutes of the February 13, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed.

#### **III. Recognition of Closing the Gap Schools**

Mr. Potter outlined the analyses of 2005 PACT performance. 16 percent (138 or 863) of South Carolina elementary and middle schools have been identified as reducing the achievement gap for at least one historically underachieving student group. The study revealed little changed during the past year with the gaps for African-American students and between pay and free-reduced price lunch students. The largest gaps were observed on PACT science. Details can be found in the full report as distributed.

Dr. Stephen Ward, Principal, Rosewood Elementary (York District Three) shared a multimedia presentation about Rosewood Elementary, highlighting the International Baccalaureate-Primary program used to structure teaching and learning.

Dr. Cynthia Pridgen, Principal, Woodland Heights Elementary (Spartanburg District Six) outlined the practices in that school and the efforts to create a thirst for learning within every student so that all students score at high levels.

Members asked questions about costs of innovations and the use of integrated approaches to learning.

#### **IV. Subcommittee Reports**

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: There was no report.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He outlined the findings from the performance evaluation of the gifted and talented program (full report provided with the meeting materials). He also reviewed the status of appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2007, including a comparison with EOC recommendations.

C. Parent and Community Involvement: Mrs. Barton reported on behalf of the subcommittee. She outlined the responses to the 2005 parent surveys, indicating that participation level and attitudes are stable. She indicated that schools with smaller enrollments tended to have a higher response rate and that parents, particularly those in schools rated unsatisfactory, desired to be involved more than their work and family responsibilities allowed them to do so.

D. Pubic Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He announced that the PAIRS after-school guide had won the South Carolina Public Relations Society of America award for documents. He also reminded members of their commitments to participate in community meetings. The training session is scheduled for June 12 at 10 a.m. prior to the EOC meeting.

E. Administration: There was no report.

**V. Executive Session**

Mr. Drew moved the EOC go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

The EOC returned from executive session. Sen. Fair moved that the contract for Chernoff-Newman be extended by one year. The motion was adopted.

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:35 p.m.